



This is what democracy looks like: Putting politics (back) into community engagement

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Summary

Five years ago, scholars challenged educators to “teach all students in a manner that will lead to their engagement with and commitment to the political process” (Colby, Beaumont, Ehrlich, & Corngold, 2007, p. 4). This panel will address current research and practice, which continues to find service-learning and community engagement wanting in its education for democratic citizenship. Some of the questions addressed in this presentation include:

- What does research on political engagement outcomes tell us about what is working or missing in the field of service-learning and community engagement?
- Has the research impacted practice? If not, is it an outreach problem, or something more?
- Has the research field indirectly deterred measuring political engagement outcomes in any way?

- Is there a way for researchers—theory or data-based—to help practitioners make the case for political engagement?

A distinguished panel of scholars and practitioners will briefly present their research and recommendations and engage symposium participants in a dialogue about how we might infuse politics and democracy into our research and practice.

References

Colby, A., Beaumont, E., Ehrlich, T., & Corngold, J. (2007). *Educating for democracy: Preparing undergraduates for responsible political engagement*. Stanford, CA: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.